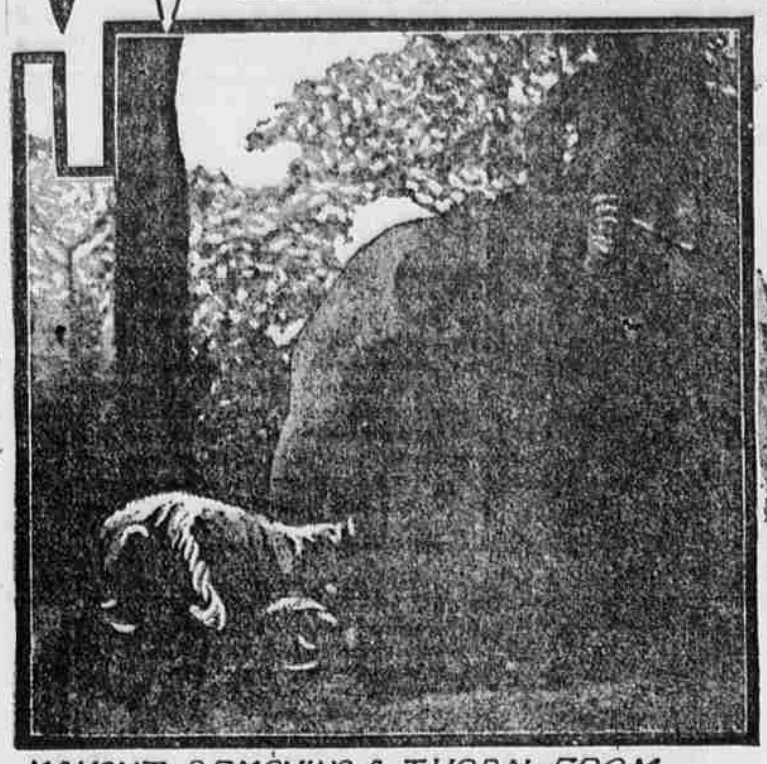
HUNTING WITH ELEPHANTS



MAHOUT REMOVING A THORN FROM ELEPHANT'S FOOT

SKINNING THE TIGER

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WALTERS

BRINGING A BAG INTO CAMP

CROSSING A STREAM INTO THE JUNGLE

A WAIT ON THE EDGE OF THE JUNGLE

WHEN a man goes hunting tigers from the back of an elephant, about one-third of the danger lies in the damage the tiger might do and the other two-thirds is contributed by the various things the elephant is liable to do. In fact, if the danger from the tiger were the only thing to consider, tiger hunting would be a favorite diversion for society hunt clubs where tea is served at the end.

In a tiger hunt, anywhere from a half dozen to 100 elephants are used. When an Indian prince goes forth on a royal hunt, there are even more elephants than that brought along. When a normal man issues forth, he endeavors to get along with the half dozen. For elephants are expensive; they cost all the way from $400 to $1,200; a dollar a day to feed, besides the pay of the guides, which is not cheap. So that the man who has a tiger skin that he has captured himself, upon his parlor floor, has probably paid close to $1,000 for it.

India is the only country in which elephants are used for hunting. In Africa the elephant is not tamed; he is captured almost solely for his ivory. But in India the elephant is used quite entirely for hunting and working purposes.

The excitement of a tiger hunt begins long before a tiger is even sighted. The wild bees of India build their hives in a hanging position on the limbs of trees. Very often these drop down close to the ground and the thick underbrush hides them from view. It is a not infrequent incident of these hunts for an elephant to calmly walk into one of these hives and scatter the busy inmates in all directions, whereupon the bees quickly recover and seek revenge upon the clumsy elephant and his riders, and all the other elephants of the party. Such an incident is a common occurrence that helps to enliven a tiger hunt and for the time being drives all thoughts of tiger skins from the hunters' minds. The basket or howdah in which the hunter rides is another feature that often lends excitement to a hunt, such as no tiger could provide. The hunter, that is the gentleman hunter, who has gone to India for the sport, occupies the howdah. This is a very large basket fastened to the elephant's back by a very strong rope. The spectacle reminds one of a captain standing on his bridge, high above the lashing waves. The native sits on the elephant's neck, or, to follow the same figure of speech, he is down on deck.

Now, elephants are often skittish and liable to fly off in a panic. They do this, quite forgetful of the captain on the bridge, and the result is that the tiger hunter often has to cling with both hands to the sides of the howdah and receive a severe shaking up as though he were a pebble in a tin can. Nor is this without its dangers. Often when the elephant becomes panic stricken he will charge into a jungle and tear madly about until he drops with fatigue.

Another danger is when an elephant gets caught in a tropical mire and flounders about. At these times the elephant will grope about for anything he can reach, to poke down under his feet to get a firmer foothold. Small trees and branches are thrown to him which he dexterously arranges with his trunk and fore legs until he has built a foundation upon which he can rest. But at these times the elephant is not scrupulous in regard to the material he uses. A story is told in Asia of an inexperienced hunter who, when his elephant was floundering about in this way, thought he would be doing it a service by dismounting. He did so; whereupon the elephant seeing likely foundation material in him, snatched him with his trunk and buried him in the mire.

And so, the actual tiger dwindles into a minor role when he is hunted from the backs of elephants. In fact, some sportsmen pooh pooh the idea of using elephants at all. They call it parlor hunting. And, except for these incidental dangers, they are right. When a tiger charges, as he sometimes does, it is only the native on the elephant's neck who is in danger. The man in the howdah is high aloft with a whole head. And if he should miss and the tiger come on, the worst that could happen is that he will have no driver to guide his elephant back to camp.

Yet elephants are more or less indispensable in this kind of hunting. The Asian forests are very dense and stalking is not only very dangerous but it is often impossible. In some parts of the jungle no man can get through. The elephant, on the other hand, simply beats his head against an obstructing tree and flops it over. And then, too, he carries the supplies which, of course, are necessary on trips of this kind.

The control its mahout (driver) has over the huge but docile animal is truly marvelous, as he verbally directs it here to tear down a destructive creeper, or a projecting bough, with its trunk; there to fell with its forehead a good sized tree that may interfere with its course in the line; or to break some precipitous bank of a mullah (water course) with its fore feet, to form a path for descending into it, and then, after the same fashion, to clamber up the other side. And if its driver should chance to let fall his gujhag (iron goad) the elephant gropes for it and lifts it up to him with his trunk. In tiger hunting, however steady an elephant may be, its behavior depends largely on the conduct of the mahout. If an elephant gets frightened he goes among the tree jungle and then the chances of the man in the howdah grow slimmer with every stride of the animal.

The Call of the Jungle.

BY BERKELEY HUTTON.

Many a time I've come back from a trip, leaving half my men and all my ivory rotting in some deadly African swamp, half dead with fever, swearing that I'm done with the business for good. And some bright day, in six months, or even three, the smell of the jungle gets into my nostrils or the coughing roar of a lion's challenge—and that settles the business. Back I go again, knowing precisely what is coming—the sweating days and the chilling nights, the torments of insects and of thirst, the risks and hardships, and the privations. For once Africa has laid her spell upon a man, he's hers forever. He'll dream of her—of the parched and blistered veldts he's crossed under the blazing sunlight; of the nights, those moonlit haunted nights when he's watched beside a runway, waiting for the game to come down to drink, and listened to the ripple of the water on the flats, the stealthily snapping of branches all around him, the scurry of monkeys overhead; listened to the vast silence, into which all smaller sounds are cast as pebbles are dropped into a pool.—Everybody's Magazine.

Practical Fashions

LADIES' DRESSING SACK.

Paris Pattern No. 2616, All Seams Allowed.—Flowered or plain challis, cashmere, voile, nun's veiling, albatross or china silk, are all adaptable for this charming little dressing sack. The fronts are gathered into the yoke, which is of all-over lace or embroidery, according to taste. The armbands are of similar lace and the sleeves are finished with a ruffle of the material, trimmed with narrow insertion and lace edging; similar edging and insertion finishing the ruffle at the edge of the jacket. The fullness of the back is tucked in box-plait effect; a narrow belt fastening in front holding in the fullness at the waist-line. The pattern is in four sizes—32, 36, 40 and 44 inches, bust measure. For 36 bust the sack requires 4½ yards of material 20 inches wide, 2⅞ yards 36 inches wide, or 2¼ yards 41 inches wide; as illustrated, seven-eighths yard of wide insertion for yoke, three-fourths yard of insertion for armbands, four yards of narrow insertion and six yards of edging to trim.

To procure this pattern send 10 cents to "Pattern Department," of this paper. Write name and address plainly, and be sure to give size and number of pattern.

NO 2616. SIZE.....

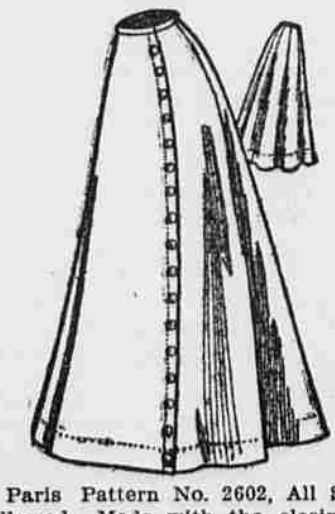
NAME.....

TOWN.....

STREET AND NO.....

STATE.....

LADIES' SEVEN-GORED SKIRT.



Paris Pattern No. 2602, All Seams Allowed.—Made with the closing at the left side of the front, and the habit back having a seam down the center, this is one of the newest and most popular models for late autumn and early winter. The best materials for its development are cheviot, serge, either striped or plain tweed, or broadcloth. The buttons may be of the bone or cloth-covered variety, or of velvet, according to taste. The lower edge is finished with a simple hem; but if desired a row of braid might be applied as a trimming above the stitching. The pattern is in seven sizes—22 to 34 inches, waist measure. For 26 waist, the skirt, made of material with nap, requires 8½ yards 20 inches wide, 5⅛ yards 36 inches wide, four yards 42 inches wide, or 3⅜ yards 54 inches wide; without nap, it needs 7½ yards 20 inches wide, 4½ yards 36 inches wide, 3½ yards 42 inches wide, or 3⅛ yards 54 inches wide. Lower edge about 3¾ yards wide.

To procure this pattern send 10 cents to "Pattern Department," of this paper. Write name and address plainly, and be sure to give size and number of pattern.

NO 2602. SIZE.....

NAME.....

TOWN.....

STREET AND NO.....

STATE.....

Overheard in the Bleachers.

"The buckwheat cakes at my boarding house always reminds me of a baseball game."

"How so?"

"The batter doesn't always made a hit."—Puck.

Paint Indicates Danger.

A paint is soon to be placed on the market to indicate excessive heat in machine parts. Red when cool, it becomes black when heated. Mercuric iodide and cupic oxide are two of the ingredients